

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 12 and 15 are amended. Claims 8, 10, 13 and 16 are canceled, and Claims 21-28 are withdrawn. Thus, Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17-20 are currently at issue.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, 17 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itonaga et al. ("Itonaga", U.S. Patent No. 6,336,901) in view of Fareed (U.S. Patent No. 5,295,951) and Makower et al. ("Makower", U.S. Patent No. 5,569,297). The Official Action indicates that Itonaga discloses all of the features of independent Claims 1, 12 and 15 except for a curved plate having an inner peripheral side, where the plate is made of a material more rigid than the band and at least a portion of which is curved toward the inner peripheral side, and a main balloon at a position deviated to one end of the curved plate in the lengthwise direction of the band. The Official Action relies on the disclosures in Fareed and Makower to cure these deficiencies.

Claims 1, 12, and 15, as amended, provide that the balloon is connected to the band by a connector only on the side of the balloon adjacent one end of the curved plate. Applicants respectfully submit that this connection of the balloon to the band, together with the other claimed features, are not shown by any of the cited prior art references, either individually or in combination.

As the Official Action notes, Itonaga discloses an air bag 11 and a pressure air bag 12, identified as the balloon and pressing member, respectively. An intervening member 14, together with the pressure air bag 12, form a press portion. In Itonaga, the airbag 11 is attached to the band through the press portion 12, 14. The entire surface along one portion of the airbag 11 is attached to the press portion. Likewise, the entire surface along one portion of the pressure air bag 12 is attached to the band. Itonaga does not show the curved plate as claimed. Because there is no curved plate, and both air bags 11, 12 are attached in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2 for example, Itonaga cannot be said to disclose the balloon being connected to the band by a connector only on the side of the balloon adjacent one end of the curved plate.

Fareed shows an upper plate 56 with a balloon 55 attached to the plate. The balloon is shown as being centered in a concave portion of the plate, and attached along the entire surface of one portion of the balloon. The plate 56 has straps 58 at either end. The balloon 55 is attached to the plate 56, not the straps 58. Thus, Fareed does not disclose a connector that connects the balloon to the band only on the side of the balloon adjacent one end of the curved plate.

Makower shows a resilient force applying element 46 with the entire surface of one portion connected to an L-shaped member 40. Once again, there is no connecting member that connects the force applying element to the band. Thus, Makower also does not disclose a connector that connects the balloon to the band only on the side of one end of the curved plate.

Because none of the references above disclose a connector connecting a balloon to a band on the side of the balloon adjacent one end of a curved plate, there

would have been no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the references to result in the hemostatic device as claimed.

As discussed in the application, the claimed arrangement allows for the position or direction of the balloon to be changeable if desired or necessary according to various factors such as the puncture site position, the position of the secondary balloon, or the position of the curved plate, even if the puncture site is provided at various positions with respect to the main balloon. It is possible to impart the pressing force in an appropriate direction.

For at least the reasons above, applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejection of the independent claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14 and 17-20 ultimately depend from independent Claims 1, 12 and 15, and are thus allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable independent claims. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 14 and 17-20 are also allowable.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application are respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

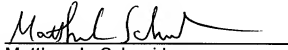
in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 21, 2007

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